

Torii



Teller

Marine Corps Air Station
Iwakuni, Japan

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Toys for tots proves to be worthy cause

by SgtMaj. Robert W. Holub
Marine Forces Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — You know around this time of year, it seems you can't turn on the television without seeing a version of Charles Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol" on some channel. I bet it and Jimmy Stewart in "It's a Wonderful Life" make up a better portion of our holiday viewing this time of year.

Did you ever wonder why these two stories make up so much of the viewing time around the holidays? I personally think they are broadcast with such frequency to remind us what Christmas should be about, and as reminders about what is really important in life — not just around Christmas time, but 365 days a year — things like family, friendship and good will toward your fellow man. And it is what you can do as a Marine to help out your fellow man that I would like to talk with you about this week.

All around the country the Marine Corps is involved in a program called Toys for Tots. For those of you who don't know, Toys for Tots is a program that dates back to around World War II. In the beginning, the Marine Corps Reserve took the lead in the collection of toys throughout the country to give to kids who might not have a very Merry Christmas without them. It was a way for Marines stationed in those communities to give back something to the children of this nation whose families may be a little down on their luck.

What I would ask all of you in the final days that lead up to Christmas is that you lend a hand in making a little boy's or girl's Christmas brighter this year by donating a toy to Toys For Tots wherever you are stationed in the Force.

Marines have taken off their own flak jackets and tenderly wrapped small children in them to keep them safe as they carried them to awaiting helicopters during real world noncombatant evacuation operations right here in Marine Forces Pacific. It is that same spirit of taking care of kids that I would like you to demonstrate

by taking part in this noteworthy cause wherever you may be. Those Marines who took off their flak jackets were not any different from any other Marines in the Force. They just had the opportunity to protect a child and they did — Marines like just like you and the shipmate next to you.

I know none of you would let any harm come to a child you were sent to rescue. I also know Marines will demonstrate that same selfless spirit by donating a toy to make a child happy on Christmas if they are asked. So Marines, I am asking you to do so.

Marines don't need a visit from ghosts or angels to remind them what the spirit of Christmas is all about. Marines carry that spirit in their hearts right next to the eagle, globe and anchor. Do the right thing and help the kids out this year. You'll feel good about it. Take my word for it.

Have a Merry Christmas, Marine Forces Pacific. I am proud of each and every one of you. Be safe. Don't drink and drive. There are plenty of bad guys still out there that our country needs you to protect them from. God bless you and your families. Semper Fi.

The Single Marine Program is coordinating the "Toys for Tots" toy drive for MCAS Iwakuni. Place new, unwrapped toys in the drop boxes at the Marine Lounge and Hornet's Nest. Special drop-off boxes are available at the Exchange 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on weekends.

For more information call SSgt. Hora at 253-4165 or the Hornet's Nest at 253-3585.

The program will no longer be able to accept donations after the special collection at the last showing of Pokemon on Sunday at Sakura Theater.



Internet photo



Our Cover

Derrick Martin, 13, M.C. Perry 8th grader, sends out the sounds of Christmas on his tenor saxophone at the M.C. Perry Christmas Concert held at the Sakura Theater Tuesday. (photo by SSgt. Timothy LeMaster)

Torii Teller

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253-5551 or 253-5554 (fax)

News Briefs

Head Gear

Service members are prohibited from wearing civilian headgear indoors. According to MCASO 1020.1Y, wearing civilian articles not specifically designed to be worn as headgear, such as bandannas, is also prohibited.

Animal Control

Residents are reminded that all domestic pets, while outdoors, must be on a leash or otherwise restrained at all times unless kept within the confines of the occupant's fenced yard, according to MCASO 10570.1J. In cases where the fence is not sufficient for this purpose, the animal must be kept on a leash in the yard.

Emergency Services

Station residents can dial 119 or 911 in case of an emergency. The number to call for off-station emergencies is 21-7700.

Recycling

The station Recycling Center urges residents to keep thinking about recycling at home and work. The center collects aluminum cans, magazines, white computer paper, newspaper and cardboard.

Residents can drop off these materials at Bldg. 1322 or call 253-3039 to have them picked up.

Cable Problems

Station residents who experience cable problems should contact Electronics Maintenance Division at 253-5631 vice AFN personnel.

Although EMD personnel are not available after working hours, residents can leave a voice message.

Facilities foreman dies of suspected aneurysm

by Cpl. Michael Wiener
Torii Teller Staff

The air station Pest Control Shop foreman passed away Dec. 8 due to a suspected brain aneurysm.

Shinji Yamamoto, 41, worked in the facilities department for more than 18 years.

"He was always friendly. He always had a smile on his face," said Chief Petty Officer David Gehringer, Facilities Maintenance chief and Yamamoto's former supervisor. "Professionally, he was very knowledgeable in his job, and everyone liked working for him. Everyone got along with him."

A funeral service was held in Iwakuni Dec. 10.



Shinji Yamamoto

Recruiter visits Iwakuni

by LCpl. Kurt Fredrickson
Torii Teller Staff

For the first time in three years an individual recruiter came to M.C. Perry High School giving students a chance to join the military.

Air Force MSgt. Leo Pruner, recruiter, planned a trip to Iwakuni Dec. 8-10 after he supplied students with the pre-Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and discovered students here had high enough scores to interest the Air Force.

A score of 50 or greater on the pre-ASVAB is required to be eligible for the Air Force, and half of the students who took the test reached that score, according to Joseph P. Mee, M.C. Perry career and guidance counselor for grades 7-12.

No other services have sent recruiters to the school to give those students with lower scores another option for service, according to Mee.

"We have not had any recruiter come to this base in at least three years and we have not had the ASVAB here at this school for more

than four years," said Mee.

Highly qualified people who are drug-free, who don't break the law and are good students is exactly what the Air Force is looking for, said Pruner.

For those individuals who did not meet the minimum score for the Air Force and are intend on serving their country, Pruner spends a little extra time with them and submits their package to a service that will accept them.

"The confusing part is that you can turn on AFN and hear that the military is finding it hard to recruit capable individuals into the branches of the military. Yet, I know of two schools — Sasebo and Iwakuni — that have students interested in military service and are not being recruited," said Mee.

Although the effort to contact recruiters of other services has been made, according to Mee, there has been little or no interest from other services in contacting and testing

Construction to produce extra station security

by Cpl. Ryan Bradburn
Torii Teller Staff

The construction of safety barriers at Main and Monzen Gates, which began Nov. 8, is scheduled to be completed Dec. 26.

The Series TT205 Phalanx Barrier System being installed is currently ahead of schedule, according to Tachibana Kazusato, construction representative.

The barriers, when fully operational, will provide an extra level of security for station residents.

"They're part of the anti-terrorism force protection the Provost Marshall's Office is employing," said SSgt. Terry Young, physical security specialist. "We plan to use them during high threat conditions."

When they are deployed, the

barriers will protrude 24 inches out of the ground, blocking incoming vehicles in both lanes. When the need arises, the system can rotate up out of the ground, taking three to five seconds to reach their full height. In emergency situations that time can be cut to a little more than one second, according to an information sheet.

The barriers will be able to withstand excessive weights at high speeds and remain operational, according to Young.

The idea to install them came from an assessment earlier this year, he said. Several initiatives were suggested to fine tune station anti-terrorism measures.

The barriers were purchased for \$200,000 and work done by the contractor will cost about \$219,000.

Year 2000 - take your post

by SSgt. Lawrence Torres
Public Affairs Chief

Another new year is just around the corner ... time for celebrations, gatherings for the countdown or maybe a silent kiss with a spouse.

Several Marines, Sailors and civilians here will be adding another element as they enter the new millennium.

They will be working.

A Y2K transition plan has been established which includes readiness positions and reporting requirements for Y2K failures and disturbances.

One of the most crucial parts of the plan includes station departments and tenant commands testing their systems once entering the new year and reporting to the air station's Y2K transition command post by 2 a.m. The command post will be comprised of representatives from S-6, Provost Marshal's Office, Facilities and the Public Affairs Office, officer of the day and

staff duty officer.

"It is largely command and control," said Navy Lt. Bill Prout, facilities operations officer. "We are just coordinating and disseminating information and reporting to Marine Corps Bases Japan."

This plan will go into affect during the Y2K transition period, Dec. 28 through Jan. 4, 2000, which was established by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The purpose of the plan is to ensure that the air station transitions into the Y2K period in a safe, efficient and fully mission capable manner. There are three main functional areas with which the command post will be concerned--computers, water and electricity.

According to MSgt. Neal Beaver, ISMO staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, nothing is expected to happen to the computer systems here. There will be a minimum of one person in each

TRASH COLLECTION

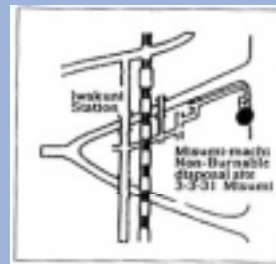
Trash will not be collected between Dec. 31 and Jan. 3. Please check the trash collection calendar for correct dates. Trash will be collected beginning Jan. 4.

FOR TAKING TRASH DIRECTLY TO DISPOSAL FACILITY

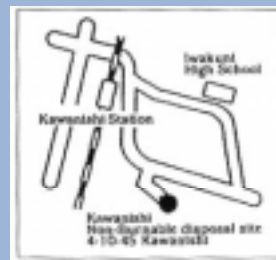
Disposal facility will be open until the morning of Dec. 30 and will open again Jan. 4.

HOW TO TAKE OUT GARBAGE

- Follow the rules when taking out the garbage.
- Be sure to take the garbage out on the correct date, time and place.
- Return all returnable wastes (bottles, cans, etc.) to the stores where purchased.
- Large wastes should be taken directly to the disposal facility or taken out by a privately owned garbage disposal company.
- For more information call the City Environmental Facility Division, 22-4141 ext. 530.



Noncombustible Garbage Factory:
Ceramics, flat glass, other non-recyclable wastes



Recycle Plaza:
Bottles, cans, plastics, metal and fragmental wastes, fluorescent lights, batteries



Factory No. 1 (incinerator):
Garbage from kitchen, paper/wood wastes other combustibles



photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph D. Elder

An Amphibious Assault Vehicle from 1st Platoon, 3rd AABn., prepares to splash into Green Beach waters for the start of an 18-mile water march to camp Del Mar.

AAVs splash into Pacific

**by Lance Cpl. Joseph D. Elder,
Marine Corps Base**

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Third Assault Amphibian Battalion Marines put a lineup of aquatic sprinters through a long-distance test recently.

"A" Company, 3rd AABn., drove

about 18 miles from Green Beach to Camp Del Mar to gain confidence in the vehicles' capabilities.

The objective was to conduct a long water march at the company level to get ready for future operations, according to Master Sgt. Matthew Byrd.

"We have a lot of young (Marines), and this gives them a greater appre-

ciation for the vehicle," Byrd said.

It was the company's last water march in preparation for a Unit Deployment Program to Okinawa for six months, said Capt. Daniel Temple, "A" Company commander. While in Okinawa, each company is scheduled to do 15- to 18-mile amphibious maneuvers from Camp Schwab to Kin Blue.

The company's AAVs and crews lined the beach's shore at about 7:45 a.m. They entered the ocean in reverse platoon order 3rd, 2nd, then 1st platoon.

After each crew performed pre-water operations checks and crew chiefs turned in their check sheets to section leaders, the company held a formation on the beach and listened to Temple's pre-splash briefing.

"This is a big day, Marines," he said. "We will be demonstrating one of the characteristics separating us from the rest of the world's armed services amphibious operations.

"Without (AAVs), we're just another army," he continued. "Our objective is to get everyone from here to Del Mar Boat Basin safely. If you're going to have to do it in combat, you've got to be able to do it in practice. We need confidence that we can do it when it counts."

see **AAVS** Page 9



photos by Cpl. Ryan Bradburn

Seaman Mark Tway, aviation mechanic's mate, munches on a bowl of zoni, a Japanese soup made with vegetables and rice cake.



Personnel from MSQ-31 unveil two kadomatsu Dec. 10 at MALS-12's headquarters building. The ornaments -- a gift to MALS-12 -- are to bring good luck in the year to come.



MALS-12, MSQ-31 celebrate similarities

**by Cpl. Ryan Bradburn
Torii Teller Staff**

In the spirit of the season, Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force Maintenance Supply Squadron 31 presented a gift to and hosted a party for its American counterpart, MALS-12, Dec. 10.

Commander Naomi Oshima, MSQ-31 executive officer, began the festivities by greeting a MALS-12 formation in front of their own headquarters building. Two kadomatsu, seasonal ornaments, were unveiled and a brief history of their purpose was given. They were cited as being a token of friendship between the sister squadrons and a wish for good luck in the year to come.

"As we present 'kadomatsu,' a tradition to formally welcome New Year's Day in Japan, we express respect to our sister squadron and show our effort to

further promote friendship and introduce our Japanese culture and custom," said Oshima.

After the ceremony, more than 120 MALS-12 Marines and Sailors boarded buses and headed over to an MSQ-31 hanger. There, they spent the afternoon in a mochitsuke — a Japanese celebration to welcome the new year. The festivities included the pounding of rice, symbolizing group unity, and then dining on rice cakes.

"The whole idea behind pounding rice in the Japanese perspective is to take all these thousands of individuals and pound them into one whole," said LtCol. Phil VanEtten, Jr., MALS-12 executive officer. "It's important that everybody who is there takes part in it."

In the long run, the time together helped improve the relationship between the squadrons, according to VanEtten.

LEFT: Two kadomatsu now stand in front of the MALS-12 headquarters building to welcome the new year and bring good luck in the year to come. They also represent the good relationship between MALS-12 and MSQ-31, according to LtCol. Phil VanEtten, Jr., MALS-12 executive officer.

UPPER RIGHT: Private First Class David Casto, MALS-12 individual material readiness list manager, selects a mochi to eat.

Mochi are balls of pounded rice and are sometimes stuffed with sweet bean.

RIGHT: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tony Seifert, MALS-12 power plants officer, and Chief Petty Officer Hiroshi Nishioka, MSQ-31 first electric inspection chief, work the rice into a viscous pulp before laying into it with harder hits.



Marines learn art of face lift

by Cpl. Ryan Bradburn
Torii Teller Staff

Since Oct. 1 last year, Marines from CSSD-36 have been practicing the art of cosmetic surgery. In the past year, they've treated about 290 patients, completing as many as 62 jobs in a month and as many as 41 in a week during the peak season. What's more, these Marines don't work with the usual surgical instruments.

They get to the root of the problem with a diesel-powered washing system, a sand-blaster, a welder and a garage-sized paint booth.

The situation suits their needs, though, since they aren't treating people. Instead, they use their art to renew their vehicles resistance to the natural elements.

Combat Service Support Detachment-36 began sending pieces of equipment through their corrosion control program Oct. 1 last year to keep them running better and longer. The program is a product of its unit, using people from throughout the detachment to accomplish each task.

"It's a home-grown corrosion control program," said LtCol. Kim Bolitho, CSSD-36 commanding officer. "We don't have a mission of corrosion control, but we expanded our painting capability to an entire corrosion control program."

The program was deemed necessary because natural elements quickly damage vehicles and equipment, especially in this environment, according to CWO3 Richard George, CSSD-36 maintenance officer. Tactical vehicles are likely to get scratched, he said, and when they do, they rust, which eventually causes serious damage.

Most of the work the unit does goes to support

MWSS-171, but the program also works to aid the air station and other units here.

When an item is brought in to go through the program, Marines clean it up first. With a diesel-powered pressure washer that's high above Marine Corps standards, according to George, Marines can get dirt out of practically every corner.

After that, the vehicle is inducted, or evaluated, to see exactly what work it will require. From there it may go in many different directions, but the shop is prepared to go almost as far as fabricating metal.

With the help of a station sandblaster, Marines strip all rust. Using welders and cutting torches, they replace and repair floorboards, battery boxes and an assortment of other parts and pieces.

When it is reassembled, the equipment is pushed into the paint booth. Mirrors and lights are taped over, and Marines set to work giving it a green coat before stenciling on camouflage. If something is too

big to fit into their own paint booth, teamwork is required, and MALS-12 opens the doors of its much-larger booth if they have no present jobs.

Once the equipment is painted, it's ready to go back to its line of duty.

Still, that's not all that's involved in the corrosion control program. As a step in preventative maintenance, CSSD-36 has acquired a fabric repair specialist and fabric repair equipment. The unit now provides covers for the equipment it supports, helping it better resist further damage.

One of the most important factors in the program is

see **CSSD-36** next page



photo by Cpl. Ryan Bradburn

An example of some minor rust damage that the corrosion control program will eradicate and help resist in the future.

Entry/exit procedures

During this time of year, many air station residents celebrate the holiday season by inviting their Japanese friends and families to partake in festivities aboard the base. The Provost Marshal's Office would like to assist in making their visit an enjoyable experience. To help your guests' entrance into and from the air station, the following information is provided:

- Guests may be signed onto the base at the Main Gate from 6 a.m.-11 p.m. daily.
- A photo identification or three forms

of positive identification is required for all visitors age of 18 and older.

- Guests younger than 18, must be escorted by their parents or have prior written approval from the parents and the PMO Administrative Section.

- Sponsors must escort guests at all times while aboard the installation.

- Guests must be escorted off the installation within 30 minutes after the sponsor's respective club closes.

- When sponsoring groups of 10 or more, the sponsor must obtain an Entry/Exit Form from the PMO Administrative Section.

- Guests that will be staying overnight

aboard the base, in family housing or temporary lodging facilities, must be preregistered with the PMO Administrative Section. Those guests staying more than one night must obtain approval from the PMO, Family Housing and Staff Judge Advocate.

Sponsors are reminded that during heightened threat conditions or special events aboard the base (i.e. Friendship Day), entry/exit procedures may be changed. If you would like further information on entry/exit regulations, contact the PMO Administrative Section at 253-3933 or refer to MCASO 5500.2N.Y2K — take your post

Y2K from Page 4

section of ISMO during the Y2K transition.

However, the Information Systems Management Office does not want anyone sending e-mail on the evening of Dec. 31.

Beaver said the air station should minimize system utilization during the transition period.

"We don't want people sending e-mail during the few hours before and after midnight," said Beaver. "If mail connectors went down and mail starts backing down in the server, it could create a larger problem.

... nothing is expected to happen to the computer systems here ...

"We don't expect any problems. We have gone through our Y2K checks, and all hardware and software on systems here are ready."

Facilities will be checking substation and electrical distribution systems, sewage lift and water pump stations, and boiler and steam distribution systems.

"I say these preparations are

prudent," said Prout. "While we are reasonably sure there will be no significant impact to the station, we want to be ready to tackle anything that might arise."

Most residents here feel we are ready, and all those that were interviewed think having a Y2K post is a great idea. Staff Sergeant Kurt Sobiesiensi, Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, hears different opinions on the Y2K issue, but is not overly concerned.

"I feel pretty confident we will be all right on the station," said Sobiesiensi. "We are a self-supportive entity."

RECRUITER from Page 3

students here.

"Had they already been ASVAB qualified, they'd be here quick," said Pruner. One of the main parts of the recruiting process is the ASVAB.

Instead of offering a full battery ASVAB that is used to determine possible military occupational specialties, the test currently offered to students is only a math and English test.

There are many more factors included in the complete ASVAB test that is left out of the pre-ASVAB, according to Mee.

Pruner is making the effort to get the full ASVAB for M.C. Perry students. He has contacted the Education Office here and supplied them with the information for establishing an ASVAB testing center here, according to Pruner.

For more than two years the education center has contacted many different people to get ASVAB testing

here, according to Jim Luetkemeyer, education services officer here.

Contact has been made with the MEPS in Chicago and the education center can only wait for a response from them, said Luetkemeyer.

"Were trying to establish a center and hopefully its available in the near future," said Luetkemeyer.

"Once I get this process completed to where the individual here does do the test, everybody (all services recruiters) will start coming here at least once a year," said Pruner. "At this point now it's up to the education center here to make contact with the Military Entrance Processing Station command overseas testing chief petty officer, and set up an account here."

There are a lot of highly qualified applicants here, according to Pruner. Hopefully in the future the testing, physicals and processing will be done here eliminating the need to transport applicants off station. The only time they will travel is when they head out to boot camp, said Pruner.

AAVS from Page 5

The company's first wave headed out to sea at 9:15 a.m., launching from left to right with a 10-second interval between vehicles. The next two platoons followed separately, 10 minutes behind each other. In total, 27 AAVs and 102 Marines took part, Byrd said.

"This is a big operation, because

AAVs normally don't run in water more than one hour at a time. This trip should last two and a half to three hours," he said.

Most Marines are not aware of the AAVs range, according to Temple.

"They believe it is only capable of running from ship to shore, oftentimes a few thousand yards. The AAVs can actually run in water for seven to eight hours," he said.

Platoons also practiced using way points, a global positioning satellite navigational tool, Byrd said.

"I'm excited about our UDP; I've always wanted to go to Okinawa," said PFC Kenneth Jones, crewman. "(The training) proved that our preparation paid off, and we can do it again."

"I think the Marines are ready," Byrd said.

CSSD-36 from Page 8

that it requires Marines from throughout the unit to help out. Corrosion control is a secondary duty for the Marines who keep the program going — they each come from shops and jobs in other areas of the unit.

Overall, the program has been working well and has

fulfilled an apparent need, according to George.

"Most people think of a corrosion control program as just paint, but it's so much more than that," said George. "We now have the ability to sandblast, and now we've expanded past metal repair. As far as I know, we are in a better position now than this unit has ever been as far as corrosion control."

Japanese party to forget the year's problems

*Bonenkai's
opportunity for
last get together
with friends,
coworkers*

by **GySgt. Mark Zeid**
Torii Teller Staff

"Tis the season to be jolly," and the Japanese are as they gear up for their year-end parties called "bounenkai."

Bounenkai literally means "forget-the-year party," since people gather to forget all the bad things that happened throughout the year.

These popular parties are very important in Japan, and many Japanese attend bounenkais out of either social obligation or business.

Bounenkais are usually held in expensive hotels or restaurants, since the main attractions are food and entertainment. Sometimes these parties are overnight affairs held at "onsen" (hot spring spas) or local ski resorts.

The people who plan these events, usually junior members within the company, try to

make the parties as much fun as possible. Entertainment such as games, gift exchanges or lotteries are popular; and sometimes special hostesses dressed in kimonos are hired to provide a traditional touch.

These parties and all the extras can be expensive, usually costing from 5,000 to 10,000 yen. After the bounenkai, most people go to "nijikai," or second parties, which can also cost 5,000 to 10,000 yen. Most Japanese go to several bounenkais in one season, which can make these parties a major holiday expense.

For those Americans invited to a bounenkai, there are several things to keep in mind.

One important factor is the cost. Most Japanese employees receive a semiannual bonus in December, so they can usually afford the bounenkai. However, many Americans (especially servicemembers) don't receive extra holiday money.

Guests should keep in mind that others are paying them a courtesy when the Japanese invite guests to a



photo courtesy of Kazuyuki Takahashi

Air station Facilities Administrative Office personnel get together to celebrate the end of the year. Bonenkai is an annual tradition for Japanese business communities.

party. Good manners are a must.

It should also be noted that most bounenkais consist of group activities such as Karachi, games and drinking. For those who do not like to participate in these types of activities, it is best not to attend.

Another thing to remember is not to criticize the party, Japan or anyone at the party. Even if some-

one asks specifically about a person or a problem, guests need to be tactful and should try focusing on the good points. In Japan, public criticism and finding fault with others is considered bad manners.

As for what social etiquette one should follow, here is one helpful hint: watch the ladies. Office ladies, especially those who are older, usually have very good manners, since such manners are expected of them. By watching them and doing what they do, guests should have no trouble with Japanese party etiquette.

One of the most important things is to thank the host at least three times. Guests should first thank the person who invited them at least once during the party. When saying good night, they should say thank you a second time. The third time should be the next time they see the host. If they aren't planning to see their host soon afterward, then they should send a thank-you letter. While the proper etiquette is important for any party in Japan, the main thing to remember is just have fun.

*Entertainment such as games, gift
exchanges or lotteries are popular ...*

Residents experience off-base culture at Kintai

by Sgt. Nikki Ables

Kintai Park, Iwakuni, Japan

Living in a foreign country is often very exciting. There are times, however, when you can feel overwhelmed. You want to get involved with the local community but just don't know how or where to go to begin. A few friends and I recently had the pleasure of taking part in a beautiful, ancient Japanese ceremony. We were the center of attention, and the experience has changed my entire outlook of my Asian experience.

As the day began, we were all very excited about the adventure but somewhat nervous. After we arrived at Kintai Park, we donned our kimonos. Not a minute went by before the sweet Japanese ladies had us giggling like school girls at our own nervousness. They cinched on our obis and tied them to perfection, all while chanting the mantra, "kabai, kabai."

"My first experience was fun at the Kintai Bridge Festival because they painted our faces white and we wore the wigs," said Sgt. Cecilia Salter, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of finance at Station Postal and a veteran of Japanese festivals. "This time was even more enjoyable. With each time it just gets better."

Once we were dressed, we were pointed in the direction of a hospice at the base of Kintai Mountain. It wasn't until we were there and feeling like movie stars that we found out it was to celebrate the changing of the leaves, or as it is known in Iwakuni, "Red Leaves Festival."

We felt like stars because the Japanese treated us as such. They took pictures and made us feel like honored guests.

"The Japanese people make you feel so special. It's an honor for us that they allow us to dress in their kimonos, but they make it seem as if it's an honor for them to have us there," said Salter.

We were invited to kneel and take part in the tea ceremony, where

young Japanese boys and girls served us tea and a soybean treat.

"I thought it was neat how we were able to communicate with body language and eye contact when neither of us knew the other's language," said SSgt. Eborah Lawson, Post Office custodian of postal effects. "I enjoyed the tea, but that soybean treat wasn't sweet. It may take some getting used to."

While we knelt, Japanese dancers performed dances, reminding us of days gone by. It was as entertaining as it was enlightening. We kept looking at each other saying, "I am so glad we did this. This is so great."

At day's end, we wondered what had taken us all so long to get involved. We are all looking forward to the next festival. I can't believe I waited so long.

I wasn't the only one impressed by the graciousness of our host nation.

"It was really exciting because I have never done anything like that before," said Ruth Sweeney, MCAS Iwakuni housing manager. "I would encourage everybody else to get involved in the cultural exchange programs. They can only enlighten your experience while living in Japan."

If you are looking for something to

do and not sure where to go, stop by the Community Services building or head over to the Japanese American Society. Listen and watch for upcoming events in need of volunteers. It will possibly enhance your stay in this foreign land and may even pack your memories with many of the best cultural experiences of a lifetime.



photo courtesy of SSgt. Lawson

Lawson receives a little help with her kimono prior to the "Red Leaves" ceremony.



photos courtesy of SSgt. Lawson

Taking part in a traditional tea ceremony was only one of many experiences residents took from Kintai.

Crash Crew takes Samurai to school with 62-58 win

by Cpl. Michael Wiener
Torii Teller Staff

The M.C. Perry Samurai came out hot in Monday night intramural basketball action, but when it was over, Crash Crew doused the flames and won the game 62-58.

Crash Crew forward Cortez Hall had the hot hand and anchored his team's scoring with 24 points on the night, most of which came from down low under the hoop.

"That's my domain down there," Hall said. "You may block one now and then, but if I post up on you, I'm going to the hoop, and I'm going to score."

"We're always looking for good things from Hall," said Chauncey Lovely, Crash Crew coach. "He's one of our main guys."

Behind Hall, Crash Crew took advantage of the fast break, kept a blistering pace and dominated the offensive boards to pull out the win.

"We didn't intend to do it, in fact it was first night we've been able to run the ball," said Lovely. "The timing was just right."

"Some teams don't think we can run the ball," Hall said, "but I love the fast break."

Five long-range three-pointers from Mike Adams kept the Samurai in the game. With 5 minutes, 25 seconds left, and after trailing the entire game, Adams pulled a shot from the top of the arc to tie things up, 49-49. Adams finished the game with 23 points.

"It got a little sloppy at the end - a lot of bad passing," Lovely said. "But I think that just comes from not playing a lot

of games yet this year."

But with the score 54-54, and 1:32 left on the clock, Crash Crew went back to the running game and scored six quick, unanswered points.

The Samurai managed two more buckets, but in the end Crash Crew came out on top 62-58, improving their record to 1-2.

"We're in the building stage right now," Hall said. "A lot of teams are taking us for granted, but we play a fundamentally sound game. Things are starting to click."

In other Monday night action, Red Devils downed the 171 Young Leaders, 52-43, in the first game, and WWJD defeated the 171 Vets 49-34.

Tuesday night at the Main Gym, the CSSD-36 Dragons continued in their perfect season, moving to 4-0 with a 52-39 victory over the Cavaliers.

The Samurai dropped their second straight game ni as many days to the Red Devils, 60-49.

The WWJD squad downed the SE Tuggers 49-43 in the last game of the night.



photo by Cpl. Michael Wiener

Crash Crew guard Chris Panowski looks to drive the lane between two Samurai defenders during Monday night intramural basketball action at the Main Gym. Crash Crew picked up their first win of the season defeating the Samurai 62-58.

Sports Briefs

Jingle Bell Job

The sixth annual Jingle Bell Jog takes place on the seawall behind the Main Gym Saturday at 9 a.m. Late registration is accepted until 8:30 a.m. at the event. Everyone age 8 and older may participate. There is a fee. For more information call 253-6359.

Monitors for Checkout

Heart rate monitors are available for free 24-hour checkout at the Main Gym's front desk Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Akiyoshidai Race

The MCCS/MCAS Running Club will provide free transportation for the first 30 runners to the Akiyoshidai 1/2 Marathon/10K/5K race March 5. Call Uemura-san at 253-5654 or Capt. Meehan at 253-4343.

New Year's Eve Bowling

Tickets will go on sale Dec. 17-30 for the Southside Bowling Center's New Year's Eve party, which is open to bowlers and guests age 18 and older. For more information call 253-4657.

SCUBA

Professional SCUBA Inspector's Visual Inspection Certification class is scheduled Saturday, and Emergency Oxygen Provider will be Tuesday. For more information call 253-6058.

Okinawa Marathon

The 2000 Okinawa Marathon is scheduled Feb. 20. Application will be accepted until Sunday, 5 p.m. For more information call Mr. Uemura at MCCS Health Promotions at 253-5654.

Friday

9:00 Sesame Street
10:00 Blues Clues
10:30 Kiana's Flex Appeal
11:00 Oprah Winfrey Show (TV-14)
12:00 NBC Nightly News
12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
2:00 General Hospital (TV-14)
3:05 Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries
3:30 Nightmare Ned
4:00 Xena: Warrior Princess
5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
5:30 Headline News
6:00 Pacific Report
6:33 CNN/SI
7:00 King of the Hill (TV-PG)
7:30 That '70's Show (TV-PG)
8:00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (TV-PG)
9:00 Law and Order (TV-14)
10:00 Pacific Report
10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
11:35 Late Show w/Letterman

Saturday

0:35 ESPN News
1:05 Movies 'til Dawn
Holiday Affair
3:00 Movies 'til Dawn
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (TV-PG)
5:00 Today Show
7:00 Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood
7:30 Arthur (TV-Y)
8:00 Disney's Mickey Mouseworks (TV-G)
8:30 Disney's Aladdin
9:00 The Wild Thornberries (TV-Y)
9:30 Goosebumps (TV-Y7)
10:00 Nova
11:00 This Old House
11:30 California's Gold
12:00 NBC Nightly News
12:30 Navy/Marine Corps News
1:00 Sports (TD)
4:00 WWF Superstars (TV-14)
5:00 Entertainers
6:00 Headline News
6:30 ESPN News
7:00 Beverly Hills, 90210 (TV-PG)
8:00 Holiday Movie Magic
9:00 Barbara Walter's 10 Most Fascinating People
10:00 Headline News
10:30 ESPN News
11:00 Saturday Night Live (TV-14)

Sunday

12:30 Motown Live (TV-G)
1:30 Soul Train
2:30 NFL Football (CBS)
5:30 ESPN News (Live)
6:00 NFL Football (FOX)
9:00 Family Movie
11:00 Diving in (TV-Y)
11:00 Wild Things (TV-PG)
12:00 Headline News
12:30 Air Force TV News
1:00 Sports (TD)
4:00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (TV-PG)
5:00 Computer Chronicles
5:30 Wall Street Journal Report
6:00 Headline News
6:30 ESPN News
7:00 America's Funniest Home Videos (TV-G)
8:00 Primetime Movie
The Preacher's Wife (TV-PG)
10:30 Headline News
11:00 ESPN News
11:30 Walker, Texas Ranger (TV-PG)

Monday

12:30 WWF Superstars (TV-14)
1:30 America's Black Forum
2:00 Sports (Live)
9:00 Sesame Street
10:00 Zoboomafoo (TV-Y)
10:30 Kiana's Flex Appeal
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (TV-14)
12:00 Headline News
12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
2:15 General Hospital (TV-14)
3:05 Disney's Pepper Ann
3:30 Jumanji (TV-Y7)
4:00 Cousin Skeeter (TV-Y)
4:30 All That (TV-Y)
5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
5:30 Headline News
6:00 Pacific Report
6:33 CNN/SI
7:00 60 Minutes
8:00 The Drew Carey Show (TV-PG)
8:30 The King of Queens (TV-PG)
9:00 The Practice (TV-14)
10:00 Pacific Report
10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
11:35 Late Show w/Letterman

Tuesday

0:35 ESPN News
1:05 Movies 'til Dawn
Weird Science (TV-PG)
3:00 Movies 'til Dawn
The Dogs of War (TV-14)
5:00 Headline News
5:30 ESPN News
6:00 Today Show
8:00 Headline News
8:30 Showbiz Today
9:00 Sesame Street
10:00 Teletubbies (TV-Y)
10:30 Co-Ed Training
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (TV-14)
12:00 NBC Nightly News
12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)

1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
2:15 General Hospital (TV-14)
3:05 Space Goofs (TV-G)
3:30 Popular Mechanics for Kids
4:00 Teen Files
5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
5:30 Headline News
6:00 Pacific Report
6:33 CNN/SI
7:00 AFN Special
Christmas in Washington
8:00 NFL Monday Night Football
11:30 Pacific Report

Wednesday

12:05 Tonight Show w/Leno
1:05 Late Show w/Letterman
2:05 Entertainers
3:00 Movie 'til Dawn
Defending Your Life (TV-PG)
5:00 Headline News
5:30 ESPN News
6:00 Today Show
8:00 Headline News
8:30 Showbiz Today
9:00 Sesame Street
10:00 Blues Clues
10:30 Bodyslapping
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
12:00 NBC Nightly News
12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
2:15 General Hospital (TV-14)
3:05 Taz-Mania
3:30 The Secret Files of the Spysdogs (TV-Y7)
4:00 Power Rangers in Space (TV-Y7)
4:30 Dear America (TV-G)
5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
5:30 Headline News
6:00 Pacific Report
6:33 CNN/SI
7:00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch (TV-PG)
7:30 Moesha (TV-PG)
8:00 Party of Five (TV-14)
9:00 Buffy Vampire Slayer (TV-14)
10:00 Pacific Report
10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
11:35 Late Show w/Letterman

Thursday

0:35 ESPN News
1:05 Movies 'til Dawn
The Great Waldo Pepper (TV-PG)
3:20 Movies 'til Dawn
Places in the Heart (TV-PG)
5:00 Headline News
5:30 ESPN News
6:00 Today Show
8:00 Headline News
8:30 Showbiz Today
9:00 Sesame Street
10:00 Teletubbies (TV-Y)
10:30 Co-Ed Training

11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (TV-14)
12:00 NBC Nightly News
12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
2:15 General Hospital (TV-14)
3:05 Animaniacs
3:30 Batman (TV-Y7)
4:00 Pokemon (TV-G)
4:30 Boy Meets World (TV-PG)
5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
5:30 Headline News
6:00 Pacific Report
6:33 CNN/SI
7:00 AFN Special
Winnie the Pooh and Christmas Too (TV-Y)
8:00 Just Shoot Me (TV-14)
8:35 NYPD Blue (TV-14)
10:00 Pacific Report
10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
11:35 Late Show w/Letterman

Friday

12:35 ESPN News
1:05 Movies 'til Dawn
It's A Wonderful Life
3:20 Movies 'til Dawn
How to Marry a Millionaire
5:00 Headline News
5:30 ESPN News
6:00 Today Show
8:00 Headline News
8:30 Showbiz Today
9:00 AFN Holiday Special
Christmas Eve on Sesame Street
10:00 Blues Clues
10:30 Kiana's Flex Appeal
11:00 Oprah Winfrey Show (TV-14)
12:00 NBC Nightly News
12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
2:00 General Hospital (TV-14)
3:05 Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries
3:30 Nightmare Ned
4:00 Sister, Sister
4:30 The Sabrina Teenage Witch
5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
5:30 Headline News
6:00 Headline News
6:33 CNN/SI
7:00 AFN Special
A Christmas Carol (TV-G)
10:00 Headline News
10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
11:35 Late Show w/Letterman

Find additional
TV schedules and sports
teams names at
www.iwakuni.usmc.mil



Movies

Sakura Theater

Mumford (R)

Rated R for sex-related images, language and drug content
Dec. 17, 7 p.m.; Dec. 18, 7 p.m.; Dec. 20, 7 p.m.

New shrink Loren Dean has cornered the therapy market in Mumford in a little less than five months. His winsome personality and practicality have the townspeople spilling secrets big and small. What they don't know is that the young psychologist also has a little secret of his own. Martin Short, Jaso Lee and Hope Davis co-star.

End of Days (R)

Rated R for intense violence and gore, a strong sex scene and language
Dec. 17, 10 p.m.; Dec. 18, 10 p.m.; Dec. 19, 7 p.m.; Dec. 22, 7 p.m.

The end of the millennium has the Prince of Darkness out hunting for his other half in New York City. The object of his unholy match is Rovin Tunney. It's up to security agent Arnold Schwarzenegger to protect the unwilling bride from the Devil himself.

Kevin Pollak plays the sidekick. Gabriel Byrne plays Satan.

Three to Tango (PG-13)

Rated PG-13 for sex-related situations and language
Dec. 18, 4 p.m.; Dec. 21, 7 p.m.

Rich businessman Dylan McDermott mistakenly believes his friend, played by Matthew Perry, is gay. While out of town, Dylan asks him to keep tabs on his mistress, Neve Campbell. Although she also believes Perry is gay, matters are complicated when he starts to fall in love with her.

Pokemon (G)

Rated G for family
Dec. 19, 3 p.m.

This schedule is submitted by the Sakura Theater and is subject to change. Any questions or comments can be directed to **MCSS** at 253-4003.

Iwakuni's Theaters

Kokusai:

Dec. 17

"The Sixth Sense" - 10:35 a.m.,
12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m.,
6:30 p.m.,

(Sat. only) 8:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m.

Dec. 18

"The Sixth Sense" - 2:35 p.m.,
"End of Days" - 4:30 p.m., 6:40 p.m.,
8:50 p.m., 11 p.m.

Dec. 19-24

"The Sixth Sense" - 2:35 p.m.,
6:40 p.m.

New Central:

Movie schedule
not available at time of print.

Local



Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous open meetings are held Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays and Sundays, 7 p.m. Closed meetings are held each Monday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. and Tuesday at 7 p.m. Their primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. All meetings are held in Bldg. 497, second floor. For more information call 43-4814.

Medical Clinic Health Promotions

Tobacco Cessation Courses

Tobacco Cessation classes will be held Jan. 19, 21, 26, 28, Feb. 16, 18, 23, 25, March 22, 24, 29 and 31. Courses are held in the clinic conference room, 10-11 a.m. Participants must attend all four sessions. For more information call 253-3266.

Controlling Cholesterol Course

A "Controlling Cholesterol Course" will be offered Jan. 27, Feb. 24 and March 30, 10-11 a.m. in the Branch Medical Clinic conference room. This class will help participants understand what cholesterol is, how to reduce it and the importance of good nutrition and regular exercise. For more information call 253-3266.

E.D.I.S.

Education and Developmental Intervention Services, a division of the Branch Medical Clinic, offers an Early Intervention program for children up to 36 months. If you have questions or concerns about your child's speech, social, cognitive or motor development call 253-4562 to set up a free screening or evaluation.

Information is also available on such topics as child development, parenting issues and behavior management.

Childbirth Education Program

Five-week Series

A five-week-series class is offered to first time expectant parents during the third trimester who are interested in learning the basics about child birth. The class meets once a week for five weeks from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information call Cmdr. Lisa Craft at 253-2714.

Refresher Class

The Refresher Class is offered to mothers who want to "freshen up" on the skills covered in the five-week series. This class, offered once a month, covers such issues as delivery at a Japanese facility, labor and delivery and breathing techniques. For more information call 253-2714.

Parents Support Program

The Parent Advocacy Program is looking for parents of children with disabilities to go to Okinawa for training to

better support families here at MCAS Iwakuni. Air fare, hotel and meal accommodations provided. Fifty training manuals and business cards provided at the end of the training. Two years preferred remaining on the air station. Call Lt. Cmdr. Doran at 253-4562 to apply.

Closure of Commissary

The Commissary's hours of operation will be changing to following schedule due to the holiday season.

Dec. 24	-	10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Dec. 25	-	closed in observance of Christmas
Dec. 31	-	10 a.m.-6 p.m. (normal hours)
Jan. 1	-	closed in observance of New Year

For more information call 253-4512.

Rent-A-Santa

The Enlisted Spouses' Club is sponsoring a Rent-A-Santa event for the holiday season. Call 253-4721 to request a date and they will send you Santa Claus, complete with outfit. There is no fee, but donations are welcome. The ESC is looking for volunteers to wear the Santa suits. Interested people should stop by the Consignment Sales Shop or call Arlette Walls at 253-4721.

JAS Christmas Party

The Japanese and American Society will hold its annual Christmas Party Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Club Iwakuni.

Reservations are required. Also, new and renewal membership forms are available at the JAS Office. For more information call 253-4771.

Christmas Post Office Hours

The Station Post Office will only be open special hours due to Christmas season.

Dec. 24: Finance closed; Parcel Pick-up window, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Operation Santa Pick-up, 10 p.m.-midnight; Dec. 25-27, Closed

Marine Corps Community Services

MCCS Holiday Events

Marine Corps Community Services will hold following holiday events through the end of the year:

Santa will call boys and girls age 7 and younger Monday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Call him at 253-6454.

Winter Wonderland Dance will be held at the Teen Center. The dance is free and open to teens, Saturday, 7-11:30 p.m. Call 253-6454.

Free Christmas Day buffet will be held at the Marine Lounge, Dec. 25, noon-10 p.m. Buffet is open to single and unaccompanied MCCS patrons and their guests 18 and older.

Free Christmas Day party will be held at the Hornet's Nest, Dec. 25, 1 p.m.

Christmas Day buffet will be held at Club Iwakuni, noon-5 p.m., in the ballroom and open to all ranks.

Club Iwakuni New Year's Eve parties, will be held

with a buffet dinner for \$9.95 which includes a Year 2000 Champagne glass. Entertainment scheduled in the Officers' Club: "Serious Guise" 9 p.m.-1 a.m.; in the Staff NCO Club: "Camille" in the Landing Zone upstairs "Allure." (Tickets will go on sale for \$5 beginning today and include hors d'oeuvres from 7-9 p.m. and party favors.)

New Year's Day Millennium Concert, will be held Jan. 1 in Club Iwakuni, features "Serious Guise," "Camille" and "Allure." The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., with "Allure" taking the stage around 10:30 p.m. The concert is free and open to all ranks.

3D Prevention Month

In honor of National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, Substance Abuse Counseling Center here will hold a car parade today, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. beginning from the parking lot of the Main Gym. Every tenth participating car's driver receives a prize, and the driver of the first 100 cars to participate gets a t-shirt. For more information call 253-5260.

Allure Autographs

Allure will sign autographs at Torii Tunes in the Exchange Dec. 30, 5:30-7 p.m.

Toys for Tots

The Single Marine Program is coordinating the "Toys for Tots" toy drive. Place new, unwrapped toys in the drop boxes at the Marine Lounge and Hornet's Nest. Special drop-off boxes are available at the Exchange 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on weedends.

The program cannot accept cash donations. For more information call SSgt. Hora at 253-4165 or the Hornet's Nest at 253-3585.

Parent Training

The Marine New Parent Support Program's Daddy's Baby Boot Camp and Mom's Basic Training fourth session will be held Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in Bldg. 411, Rm. 127. The class is free and open to everyone. For more information call 253-6553.

Playgroup

Parents and their children age birth to 6 are invited enjoy playtime, songs, snacks and crafts Tuesdays, 9:30-11 a.m. in Bldg. 589, community room. Everything is free. For more information call Mari at 253-4526.

Play Brief

At Play Brief participants will learn how to improve your interaction and communication with children. the lunchtime seminar will be held Monday, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. in Bldg. 411, Rm. 127. For more information call 253-6553.

Ultimate Job Search

Ultimate Job Search, job search process, is an up-to-date four-video package including "Starting the Job Search," "Effective Job Search Techniques," "Writing Resumes and Cover Letter" and "Interviewing with Confidence." For more information call 253-6439.

Basic Resume Workshop

Basic Resume Workshop will be held Dec. 29, 9-10:30 a.m. This customized workshop focuses on identifying skills, training and experiences that translate to market-

Chapel's Weekly Services

Saturday

5:30 p.m. Catholic Mass (Chapel Annex)

Sunday

8:15 a.m. Liturgical Worship Service (Chapel Annex)
9 a.m. Catholic Mass (M.C. Perry Elementary School Gym)
10 a.m. Church of Christ Lay Leader Service (Chapel Annex, Rm. 103)
10:15 a.m. C.C.D. (Chapel Annex)
Gospel Sunday School (M.C. Perry Elementary School, Rm. 423B)
10:30 a.m. Protestant Divine Worship Service (M.C. Perry Elementary School Gym)
12 p.m. Gospel Divine Worship Service (M.C. Perry Elementary School Gym)
2 p.m. Latter Day Saint (Chapel Annex)

Tuesday

6:45 a.m. Catholic Mass (Chapel Annex)

Wednesday

8 a.m. Premarital Seminar (Chapel Annex)

Thursday

11:45 a.m. Catholic Mass (Chapel Annex)

Call 253-5218 for more information.

For information on Jewish Services call Mark Zeid at 082-231-4008 after 6 p.m. or call the Station Chapel.

able job qualifications. For details call 253-6439.

Marine Corps Family Team Building

The next Marine Corps Family Team Building premarital seminar will be held Jan. 26. People who are soon to be married are encouraged to attend.

For more information call Chaplain Murphy at 253-5218.

Local and Federal Employment Workshop

Local and Federal Employment Workshop will be held Dec. 28, 9-10:30 a.m. in Bldg. 411, Rm. 201. The workshop will explain local job market and the application processes. Instruction is given on completing the SF171, OF612, Federal Resume and KSA form. For more information call 253-6439 or stop by Bldg. 411, Rm. 201.

Education



Test Schedule

Every Tuesday/Friday

- College Level Examination Program
- DANTES Subject Standardized Test
- Dec. 27 - Electronics Data Processing Test
- Dec. 29 - Defense Language Aptitude Battery
- Defense Language Proficiency Test
- Dec. 30 - Armed Forces Classification Test

All tests will be held at 8 a.m. at the Education Services Office locating at Bldg. 210, Rm. 109. Call the Education Services Office at 253-3855 for confirmation of testing dates or more information.